

- 2 The term “Confidential Information,” as used in this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, shall mean (a) information not in the public domain that is so proprietary or competitively sensitive that its public disclosure is likely to cause competitive injury; (b) information that constitutes or contains trade secrets pursuant to applicable law; (c) the non-

public, personal information of individuals or entities, including information that identifies the personal or financial information for a given entity or person, including name, address, account number, telephone number, place or position of work, or other identifying information; (d) information protected from disclosure by contractual obligations with third-parties; and (e) information protected from disclosure by law including, but not limited to, personnel records covered under N.C. Gen. Stat. §153A-98.

3. The term “document” or “documents,” as used in this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, shall have the same meaning as contemplated by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Confidential Information

4. Any party to this action or other person or entity, including any third party, who produces or supplies information, documents or other materials used in this action (hereinafter the “Designating Party” or the “Producing Party”) may designate as “Confidential” any such information, document, or material that it reasonably and in good faith believes constitutes or contains information protected under the terms of this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order. The designation shall be made by affixing on the document or material containing such information, and upon each page so designated if practicable, a legend that in substance states: **“CONFIDENTIAL.”**

5. Depositions may be designated “Confidential” by indicating that fact on the record at the deposition. If a Designating Party has advised the Court reporter that Confidential Information has been disclosed during a deposition, the Court reporter shall include on the cover page the following indication: **“DEPOSITION CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION — SUBJECT TO A PROTECTIVE ORDER.”** Within thirty (30) days of

receipt of the initial deposition transcript, the Designating Party shall advise the Court reporter and opposing counsel of the specific pages and lines in which Confidential Information appears. The Court reporter shall supplement the transcript to mark the specific pages and lines designated and amend the cover page to reflect that these specific designations have been made. Counsel for the opposing party may have immediate access to the deposition transcript but, prior to the page and line designations, shall treat the entire transcript as Confidential, if so designated at the deposition.

6. Confidential Information used in this litigation may be disclosed only to:

- a. The Court and its personnel;
- b. Outside counsel of record and in-house counsel in this litigation (including staff persons or outside vendors employed by such counsel);
- c. Employees of any party in this litigation;
- d. Any consultant, investigator or expert (collectively, "Expert") who is assisting in the preparation and trial of this litigation, but only to the extent reasonably necessary to enable such Expert to render such assistance;
- e. A deponent, prior to or in the course of a deposition, provided that such persons may be shown copies of designated material only during the course of preparation for his or her deposition or in the actual course of deposition, may not retain any designated material, and must be informed of the confidential nature of the materials; and
- f. A court reporter and/or videographer.

7. If a party wishes to disclose Confidential Information to any person not described in Paragraph No. 6 above, permission to so disclose must be requested from the Designating Party in writing. The Designating Party shall respond to the request within fifteen (15) days. A

failure to object shall be deemed a waiver by the Designating Party, and the party wishing to make the proposed disclosure may do so without violating this Order. If the Designating Party objects to the proposed disclosure, such disclosure shall not be made unless, upon motion by the party requesting such permission, the Court orders otherwise.

8. Prior to obtaining access to Confidential Information, any person to whom Confidential Information may be disclosed pursuant to Paragraph No. 6 above, except the Court and its personnel, outside counsel of record and in-house counsel in this litigation, and any court reporter and/or videographer, shall be shown and shall read a copy of this Order and shall agree in writing to be bound by its terms by signing a copy of the Confidentiality Acknowledgment annexed hereto as Exhibit A (“Confidentiality Acknowledgment”). Counsel for the party obtaining a person’s signature on the Confidentiality Acknowledgment shall retain the original signed acknowledgment and, if a Court so orders, shall provide a copy of the signed acknowledgment to all counsel of record.

General Provisions

9. Except to the extent expressly authorized in this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, Confidential Information shall not be used or disclosed for any purpose other than the preparation, hearing, and trial of this case, and/or any appeal therefrom, subject to the provisions of this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order.

10. Any summary, compilation, notes, copy, electronic image or database containing Confidential Information shall be subject to the terms of this Confidentiality and Protective Order to the same extent as the material or information from which such summary, compilation, notes, copy, electronic image or database is made or derived.

11. Any party may object to a designation of materials as “Confidential” by notifying

the Designating Party in writing of that objection. That writing must specify the bates range corresponding to the beginning and end of each document subject to objection as well as the bates number of the particular page or pages of such documents that actually contain the designated material to which the objection is made. The parties shall, within fifteen (15) days of service of the written objection, confer concerning the objection. If the objection is not resolved, the Designating Party shall, within fifteen (15) days of the conference, file and serve a motion to resolve the dispute over the designation of the material and shall bear the burden of proof on the issue. If no such motion is filed within the stated time period, the material will be re-designated as appropriate. If a motion is filed, information subject to dispute shall, until further order of the Court, be treated consistently with its designation. With respect to any material which is redesignated or ceases to be subject to the protection of this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, the Designating Party shall, at its expense, provide to each party additional copies thereof from which all confidentiality legends affixed hereunder have been adjusted to reflect the redesignation or removed as appropriate.

12. Inadvertent failure to designate or mis-designate any information pursuant to this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order shall not constitute a waiver of any otherwise valid claim for protection, so long as such claim is asserted within fifteen (15) days of the discovery of the inadvertent failure. At such time, arrangements shall be made for the destruction or return to the Designating Party of all copies of the inadvertently mis-designated documents and for the substitution, where appropriate, of properly labeled copies.

13. In the case of inadvertently produced documents, including but not limited to privileged and/or work product documents, upon request of the Producing Party, the inadvertently produced documents, together with all copies thereof and any notes made therefrom, shall be returned immediately to the Producing Party or destroyed. The inadvertent

production by a party does not waive any claim of privilege or work product for any document as to which the party asserts a claim of privilege or work product.

14. Nothing in this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order shall be deemed to restrict in any manner the use by any Designating Party of any information in its own documents and materials.

15. If counsel for any party receives notice of any subpoena or other compulsory process commanding production of Confidential Information that a party has obtained under the terms of this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, counsel for such party shall, if there are fewer than ten (10) days to comply, within two (2) days, or if more than ten (10) days, at least seven (7) days prior to the due date of compliance, notify the Designating Party in writing and shall not produce the Confidential Information until the Designating Party has had reasonable time to take appropriate steps to protect the material. It shall be the responsibility of the Designating Party to obtain relief from the subpoena or order prior to the due date of compliance, and, to give the Designating Party an opportunity to obtain such relief, the party from whom such information is sought shall not make the disclosure before the actual due date of compliance set forth in the subpoena or order.

16. In the event that either party wishes to file Confidential Information with the Court, the party must follow the procedures set forth in Local Civil Rule 6.1 for the filing of documents under seal.

17. This Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order shall not prevent any of the parties from moving the Court for an order that Confidential Information may be disclosed other than in accordance with this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order. This Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order is without prejudice to the right of any party to seek modification of it from the Court. It shall remain in effect until such time as it is modified,

amended, or rescinded by the Court. This Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order does not affect any party's rights to object to discovery on any grounds other than an objection based solely on the ground that the information sought is confidential in nature.

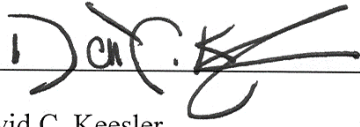
18. The Court shall have continuing jurisdiction to modify, enforce, interpret, or rescind this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, notwithstanding the termination of this action.

19. Within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of this action, including the exhaustion of all appeals, counsel for all parties shall destroy or return all copies of documents designated by the other party as "Confidential." Documents or materials that contain Confidential Information of a Designating Party and the work product of the party in possession of the documents or materials need not be returned to the Designating Party or be destroyed. Any Confidential Information retained by a non-Designating Party's counsel shall be kept and protected in accordance with the terms of this Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order. Upon request, Counsel for any party or third party receiving Confidential Information shall make written certification of compliance with this provision and shall deliver the same to counsel for each Designating Party within one hundred twenty (120) days after the conclusion of this action, including the exhaustion of all appeals.

The foregoing is hereby approved by the Court as a Protective Order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).

SO ORDERED.

Signed: November 27, 2018



David C. Keesler
United States Magistrate Judge



EXHIBIT A
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION
CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:18-CV-167-FDW-DCK

NATALIE NICHOLSON,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
MECKLENBURG COUNTY,)	
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

I, _____, being duly sworn on oath, state the following:

1. I have read and understand the Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order to which this Exhibit A is annexed, and I attest to my understanding that access to information designated Confidential may be provided to me and that such access is pursuant to the terms and conditions and restrictions of the Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order. I agree to be bound by the terms of the Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order. I hereby submit to the jurisdiction of this Court for the purpose of enforcement of this Confidentiality Acknowledgment and the Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order.

2. I shall not use or disclose to others, except in accordance with the Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, any Confidential Information. I also shall return all

Confidential Information provided to me in this litigation to counsel for the party with whom I am associated within sixty (60) days after the conclusion of this action, including the exhaustion of all appeals. If I fail to abide by the terms of this Confidentiality Acknowledgment or the Consent Confidentiality and Protective Order, I understand that I may be subject to sanctions under the contempt power of the Court, which includes the power to impose compensatory damages to remedy contemptuous conduct.

Dated: _____

Signature

Printed Name

Address

Associated Individual or Entity

_____ County

Sworn to and subscribed before me by

_____.

Dated: _____

Notary Public

Notary's Printed Name

My Commission Expires: _____